FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 MAY 1984

Gulf War

Khamene'i Remarks — Responding to "hostile activities" by some Gulf states against Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned that these states will experience "no violations" if they remain neutral but that they must not allow their bases, AWACS, port facilities, and shipping to be used by the Iraqis. Khamene'i, who was addressing military units in Bandar 'Abbas in a speech reported by Tehran radio, stressed that U.S. threats to provide modern weapons for use against Iran will not shake its "firm resolve," because people are more decisive than advanced weapons. If the Americans are prepared to "sink to the depths of Persian Gulf waters for nothing," then "let them come." After inspecting military units in Bandar 'Abbas, Khamene'i said in an interview with the radio that the Iranian Navy has made "excellent progress" in bringing its fighting power to an "acceptable level," adding that Iranian forces have received "the necessary orders" and "know what to do."

Diplomatic Developments — A Saudi information official cited by SPA denied a BBC report that Saudi Arabia has asked Iraq to halt attacks on Gulf shipping, asserting that the Kingdom has not requested anything of the kind from Iraq. Meanwhile, the paper *AL-ANBA'*, according to KUNA, said Kuwait's only option is to "turn to Baghdad" and increase support for Iraq, according to KUNA. Stressing that confrontation is preferable to submission, the paper indicated that Kuwait cannot rely on the United Nations, the GCC, or the Western powers.

In Tokyo the head of INA told newsmen that Japan could play an effective role as a mediator in the Iran-Iraq conflict, KYODO reported. Confirming that Japan intends to continue mediation efforts, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe disclosed that a Japanese envoy will leave for Tehran shortly, INA noted. The Iranian ambassador in Tokyo subsequently met with Abe to ask Japan to continue to purchase Iranian oil, according to KYODO.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah asserted in an *AL-QABAS* interview reported by KUNA that any amendments to the GCC draft UN resolution condemning Iranian attacks which delete the words "the aggressor" are unacceptable to its sponsors. The Iraqi paper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* declared that Iraq will reject any Security Council resolution that equates "peaceful Iraq with aggressor Iran," according to INA.

Iran-Bloc Relations

The Iranian prime minister held talks in Tehran with the visiting Czechoslovak minister of fuel and power, while the Iranian foreign minister met with the Bulgarian prime minister in Sofia, according to Tehran radio. Moscow's *PRAVDA* published a Tudeh Party statement castigating the Iranian regime for its mismanagement of internal affairs and for its "ominous conspiracy" against the Tudeh.

Egypt

In the 27 May People's Assembly elections, the NDP received 73 percent of the vote and won 391 of the 448 contested seats, while the New Al-Wafd Party took the remaining 57 seats with 15 percent of the vote, Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha disclosed in a news conference broadcast by Cairo radio. The minister noted that the three other parties contesting the elections did not reach the 8 percent threshold and consequently obtained no seats. He reported that 43 percent of registered voters cast ballots. Abu Basha rejected opposition criticism of the conduct of the elections, saying that such statements lacked "hard and fast evidence" and were meant to cast doubt on the fairness of the elections. He reported that incidents occurred in only 88 out of 22,000 election committees and attributed these to "quarrels and feuds."

A commentary in the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* reported by Cairo radio described the support given the NDP as an endorsement of President Husni Mubarak's domestic and foreign policies.

Syria

Vice President Rif'at al-Asad met with Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Tikhonov and Candidate Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo Boris Ponomarev, TASS reported. The two sides discussed Soviet-Syrian relations, the Middle East situation, and other international "problems." Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', who is also a member of the visiting Syrian delegation, held talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Gromyko, TASS reported.

Lebanon

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, the minister of state for southern affairs and reconstruction, discussed political developments and reform of the Lebanese Army during a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, Beirut radio reported. Birri said the talks were positive with an identity of viewpoints.

An adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied that Israel intends to close the mission in Ad-Dubayyah, asserting that the Israeli representation is necessary for holding contacts that will lead to security arrangements in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. This announcement conflicted with an earlier report by the radio that Israeli "personalities at the most senior political level" were advising the unilateral closure of the office near Beirut.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the DFLP has reopened an office in West Beirut.

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'Diplomatic Sources' Assess Situation in Panjsher

BK291426 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 29 (AFP) — Soviet Army troops are busy erecting garrisons in Afghanistan's Panjsher Valley while Moslem guerrillas center their attacks on the strategic Salang Highway from Kabul to the Soviet border, Western diplomatic sources said here today. The sources described the situation in the Panjsher Valley, one month after the start of a Soviet offensive against Afghanistan's key rebel stronghold, as an uneasy "Pax Sovietica." Russian assault troops have been transformed into construction teams, building fortifications in the three main localities in the southern end of the valley, according to the diplomats.

Soviet and Afghan Government troops have succeeded in cutting off many of the roads leading to Panjsher Valley, while rebel forces were said to control the adjacent valleys of Feraj and Hazara.

Guerrillas have apparently chosen to refrain from launching a counteroffensive, instead limiting their action to raids on the Salang Highway, the main supply route to the capital.

The raids have heightened shortages of gas, sugar, meat, and other imported products in Kabul. Despite the doubling of a risk bonus, many truck drivers have refused to take the Salang Highway for fear of being ambushed. Referring to the rebel attacks for the first time this week, the government press denounced guerrillas as "highway robbers."

Diplomats here said the Afghan Government was unable to convince refugees from the Panjsher Valley to return to their homes from Kabul. A Panjsher mullah, or priest, who recently took part in a television program urging refugees to quit Kabul was shot to death last week outside his home in the center of the capital.

The diplomats also mentioned persistent rumors that three Soviet generals had been killed during the Panjsher offensive. Afghan resistance spokesmen in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar have failed to confirm the reports.

Meanwhile, rebel operations continued against Kabul, the diplomats said, with the May 21 explosion of a bomb in the basement of the Ministry of Mines and Industry. Some 10 were said to have been killed or wounded in the blast. There were also night attacks on the outskirts of the capital, aimed at the Bala Hesar fort, where a Soviet brigade is stationed.

VOIR: Soviet Troops 'Surrounded'

GF291846 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Our mujahidin brothers in an attack on an enemy post of the hellish regime in Herat killed 60 Karmal mercenaries.

A combined force of 300 Soviet and puppet Karmal regime troops who intended to attack mujahidin positions in the (Karta) region of Herat Province suffered 40 soldiers killed and another 4 captured in battles with the mujahidin. The clash lasted several hours and the enemy after numerous losses in dead and wounded fled the area, leaving considerable quantities of equipment and arms.

In a night attack on a Soviet-Karmal military camp in (Rabat Babakhani), the mujahidin killed 40 enemy soldiers. In this attack the mujahidin also destroyed four tanks with rocket missiles.

The mujahidin clashes with the infidel enemy in various sectors of Panjsher have continued. Reports received from Panjsher indicate that heavy losses have been suffered by the enemy. Reports add that the morale of the enemy officers and men is very low because of pressure by our Muslim brothers.

A Karmal regime general who also acts as deputy defense minister was recently sent to Panjsher to boost the sagging morale of Karmal forces who have been assigned to kill their Afghan brothers there.

A spokesman for our mujahidin brothers fighting in Panjsher said that the enemy has reaped no benefits from its savage attack in the Panjsher Valley, because our mujahidin brothers had advance information about the time and strength of the enemy and had prepared their defenses.

The mujahidin spokesman said that the Soviet occupationist forces are totally surrounded by the mujahidin brothers in every sector of the valley.

'Noisiest Night' in Kabul

LD292145 Riyadh SPA in English 1923 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 29, SPA — Afghan capital Kabul witnessed what the Western diplomats here today described as the "noisiest night of the year" on May 26-28, indicating large-scale operations between Soviet-manned Bala Hesar fortress and Bini Hesar zone.

Kabul was rocked by a large time-bomb exploding in the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries in the center of the city. The explosion killed 12 persons.

Mujahidin Attempt Airport Attack, Destroy 6 Tanks

LD292041 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Mashhad, May 29, IRNA — Six advanced Soviet tanks were destroyed by RPG-7 fire of Afghan mujahidin in an encounter between them 10 kms from the Shindand airport last Thursday. All of the tank occupants were killed. Reports reaching here said that the Afghan mujahidin had attempted to attack the concentration site of the Soviet forces and their aircraft in the Shindand airport, but ran into tens of Soviet tanks stationed 10 kms away from the airport, and an ensuing skirmish erupted. The mujahidin, however, reportedly managed to penetrate Soviet defence lines, advancing to an area 5 kms from the airport, which they surrounded for 24 hours.

'Servants of Imperialism' Crushed in Nangarhar

LD291714 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] A group of rebels — the servants of reaction and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism — which for some time had been disrupting the peaceful lives of the toiling people of La'lpur subdistrict, (Shinwar) District, Nangarhar Province, was recently crushed by the security forces of that subdistrict.

A source in La'lpur subdistrict's security force said that one rocket launcher, one Kalashnikov, one [word indistinct] rifle, and a quantity of ammunition were seized from these murderers.

According to another report, a group of counterrevolutionary elements was recently crushed by the security forces in Nazian subdistrict of (Sinwar) district. A number of light weapons and ammunition were seized from them by the security forces.

Kabul Night Curfew Established for Month of Ramadan

LD291952 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that in respect for the month of Ramadan and participation in the Taraweh prayers and the recitation of the Holy Koran, and in order to provide facilities for Kabul citizens in this regard, restriction on night movement has been fixed from 2300 to 0300. Esteemed Kabul citizens are requested to observe restrictions on night movement from 2300 to 0300 hours.

U.S. Seeks Pretext for Intervention in Persian Gulf

LD300620 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 29, BAKHTAR — A BIA commentator writes: The military and provocative circles of the Reagan administration try hard to fish in the troubled waters of the Persian Gulf.

The warmongering circles of the Pentagon, under the pretext that the Iran-Iraq war has [words indistinct] the frontier clashes and the aircrafts of the two sides attacked on the oil tankers and there, have poked their nose into the affairs of the Gulf. Ronald Reagan uttered in this regard that the U.S. will not let anyone close theStrait of Hormuz and will maintain the freedom of navigation in the Gulf waters. He added that the Gulf region is an area of "vital interest to the USA." Mr Reagan stretched out his mechanical arms from a distance of 20 thousand km and seeks to interfere militarily in a way as if the Persian Gulf is an American Gulf. Since two weeks which elapsed from the eruption of the clashes in the Gulf waters, the U.S. hysterically seeks for pretext to find a way for intervention. [sentence as received]

On October 25, 1983, when Americans invaded Grenada with a pretext that the neighbours of Grenada were uncomfortable with the internal situation of the island, they invited America to occupy [words indistinct] — some neighbour.

Now the work of Americans became harder. Reagan found it inevitable to address the Arab neighbours of the Gulf, which he said [passage indistinct] is very serious, call me to help you, to teach a lesson to the troublemaker."

The exaggerated words of the U.S. defence minister Casper Weinberger later concerning "exploding state of affairs in the Gulf" puzzled the political observers and the journalists sent rushly [as received] to teletypes.

The situation showed that in spite of the lapse of some time and despite the fact that the hunting of the oil tankers have shifted during one week from the first pages of the dailies to the middle pages, the USA in collusion with reactionary states of the Gulf did not resist and started to despatch the most sophisticated antiaircraft rockets under the name of Stinger and the 135 Boeing aircrafts [as received], which can refuel in the air the F-15 aircraft of Saudi Arabia, and thus make the flight-range longer.

It is questionable that with the assumption of the stoppage of ship traffic in the Gulf, what is the concern of the USA in this connection? The USA imports less than 5 percent of its required oil from the Persian Gulf. Moreover, who has appointed the USA as the protector of the ships in the Gulf?

The answer is simple. The USA wants to make use of every crisis in any corner of the world for gaining a military base. There should not exist an event in which the USA is not present.

The DRA, being in the vicinity of the Gulf, expresses profound concern over the adventures construed by U.S. imperialism in collaboration with some reactionary U.S. allies, and condemn any introduction of the U.S. sophisticated weapons in the region.

Regrets Conveyed to Bangladesh Over Delhi Incident

BK291645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] India has conveyed to Bangladesh its profound regrets over yesterday's incident at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi in which some demonstrators damaged the Commission building. The foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, today met the Bangladesh high commissioner and told him that full protection will be provided to the mission and staff.

India's high commissioner in Dhaka, Mr I.P. Khosla, was also instructed to convey to the Bangladesh Government India's regrets over the incident.

The demonstrators were demanding the withdrawal of the enemy property act enacted by Bangladesh covering properties of minorities.

In Dhaka, Mr Khosla was called to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry and a protest note was handed over to him about yesterday's incident. He was asked to convey to the Government of India the urgent need to insure the security of the Bangladesh High Commission and its personnel.

Army Chief: No Casualties in Pakistan Border Exchange

BK300908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General A.S. Vaidya, today presented Sena medals, Vishisht Seva medals and Territorial Army decorations to 66 officers, junior commissioned officers, and other ranks and 1 civilian at a colorful investiture parade in Srinagar this morning. Speaking on the occasion, Gen Vaidya said the neighboring countries are equipping themselves with new weaponry far in excess of their needs. He said the Indian Army is fully prepared to defend the country and its jawans [men] are trained to handle modern and sophisticated weapons. Earlier talking to newsmen in Jammu, Gen Vaidya denied a report published in a section of the press that there was a series of encounters between Indian and Pakistani troops in the Poonch-Rajauri sector. He said there had been an exchange of fire in this sector yesterday but pointed out that there were no casualties.

Reports on Visit by Vanuatu's Prime Minister

Gandhi Welcomes Lini

BK280756 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The prime minister of Vanuatu, Father Walter Lini, arrived in New Delhi this morning to a ceremonial welcome on a 10-day visit to India. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, her cabinet colleagues, and others. During his stay, the prime minister of Vanuatu will have talks with Mrs Gandhi and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. He will also meet the vice president, Mr Hidayatullah. Mrs Gandhi is hosting a dinner in his honor tonight.

Prime Ministers Confer

BK281610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 May 84

[Excerpt] India has conveyed its full support for the aspirations of the people of Vanuatu and other countries of the South Pacific region. The assurance came in the course of an hour-long meeting between the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the visiting Vanuatuan prime minister, Father Walter Lini, in New Delhi today. She also offered India's full cooperation to Vanuatu in its development programs, especially in the small-scale industry sector. Vanuatu is particularly interested in developing its coconut-based small industries.

Father Lini briefed Mrs Gandhi about the developments in the South Pacific. He expressed admiration for India's role as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement and reiterated his country's support in the efforts India is making on issues like North-South dialogue and disarmament. They also discussed the issue of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, on which the two countries have similar views.

In the bilateral field, the Vanuatu Government wants training facilities for its journalists and broadcasting staff.

Gandhi Hosts Banquet

BK290328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has reiterated that India's neighboring countries have nothing to fear from India. Mrs Gandhi said that India has no desire for power or role of leadership. She made this statement while speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting prime minister of Vanuatu, Father Walter Lini, in New Delhi last night. The prime minister regretted that India's neighbors are obsessed by its size and sometimes let their imaginations run riot, alleging intentions which do not exist. Referring to a Bible quotation — to love thy neighbor as thyself — Mrs Gandhi said this is the relationship which we wish to have with those around us.

Referring to the natural interests of India and Vanuatu in the oceans around them, Mrs Gandhi said that Indian Ocean is now part of global strategy. Military bases and nuclear weapons are used for domination and control rather than the harmonious well-being of mankind. Mrs Gandhi said that the nonaligned nations should resolve to use science and technology for the good of humanity. Mrs Gandhi stressed the need to devise new international arrangements so that developing countries get the economic and technological helps they needed.

The Vanuatu prime minister, Father Walter Lini, in his reply expressed admiration for India's consistent stand that the central issue in securing wider progress on disarmament is the halt to the nuclear arms race. He reiterated his country's support to India's perception that the sustained economic development of the South is vigorously activated.

Punjab Governor Apprises Gandhi of Situation

BK291624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pande, called on the prime minister in New Delhi today. He is understood to have apprised Mrs Gandhi of the latest situation in the state.

The Punjab police have apprehended a terrorist in Tarn Taran said to have been involved in the (Nashera-Panwan) bus passenger killing and the bank dacoity [robbery] in Karolbagh in Delhi. His accomplice managed to escape. One Sten gun, four live cartridges, three magazines of the Sten gun, and two hand grenades were recovered from the terrorist.

Night curfew in Ferozepore and Jagraon has been extended until tomorrow and in Mansa until Sunday.

The 2-week-long mass contact campaign launched by the Congress-I in Punjab concluded yesterday. The president of the state unit of the party, Mr R.L. Bhatia, told newsmen in Chandigarh that over 1,500 meetings were held in various parts of the state.

Mr Bhatia said the government is eager to solve the Punjab tangle, but the Akali leaders do not seem to be in a mood to start a dialogue for finding a solution to the problem.

BSF Personnel, Civilians Killed

BK300923 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0856 GMT 30 May 84

[Excerpt] In Punjab two BSF [Border Security Force] personnel and one civilian were killed when some terrorists threw a hand grenade at a BSF patrolling party on 29 May in Taran Taran town of Amritsar District. Another four persons, including two BSF personnel, were injured in the attack.

In Amritsar, two persons, one shopkeeper, and a customer were killed when some unidentified persons fired at them. The slain shopkeeper is reported to be a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader.

In another incident in Gurdaspur District, two persons were killed and two seriously injured when they were fired upon by some miscreants in village near Qadian.

In Chandigarh, one person was injured when shot at by some miscreants on 29 May.

Meanwhile, Chandigarh police have intensified patrolling in the city.

Further Details on Sectarian Clashes in Maharashtra

BK291633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The Maharashtra police have initiated action against some persons and periodicals for speeches and writings alleged to have hurt the sentiments of different communities. A case has been registered against the Shiv Sena leader, Mr Bal Thackeray, for his speech delivered in Bombay on the 21st of last month. Identical cases have been lodged against the editor of an Urdu weekly from Bombay and a Marathi weekly published from Pune.

A state government spokesman said in Bombay that district police authorities have also initiated action against some leaders who were alleged to have delivered inflamatory speeches a couple of months ago.

Meanwhile, the curfew at four places in Central Bombay has been totally lifted. A dusk-to-dawn curfew from 2300 to 0400 will, however, continue in some parts of the eastern and western suburbs for some more time.

In Srinagar, there were demonstrations today against the recent communal violence in Maharashtra. Police burst teargas shells when a mob indulged in heavy stone-throwing near the police station at (Shafakabal). A number of policemen were injured. The demonstrators also pelted stones on houses in some localities of the city.

An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the situation throughout the valley is normal, and educational institutions and other establishments are functioning.

According to agency reports, there were similar demonstrations in Anantnag also. About 90 people, including 60 policemen, are reported to have been injured at Anantnag.

Over 7,000 Illegal Arms Recovered in Rajasthan

BK300937 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0858 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] In Rajasthan, more than 7,000 arms have been recovered by police in Jodhpur in the last three days. An official statement in Jaipur said that police have registered nine cases in this connection. A police official said that the campaign to recover illegal arms followed a seizure of arms in Bombay on 23 May.

Foreign Minister Meets With UN Secretary General

BK300451 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has held talks with the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, in New York. The talks were mostly devoted to the Afghanistan problem. Pakistani officials said later that Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was informed that the Karmal administration had sent an interim reply on the proposed UN package agreement for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan crisis. The decision on a resumption of indirect talks between Pakistan and the Karmal administration will be made after the receipt of the final reply.

They also exchanged notes on their recent meetings with the U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, which also included the Afghanistan topic.

According to UN sources, the UN secretary general will go to Moscow next months for talks with the Soviet leader, Mr Chernenko. The Afghanistan problem is expected to come under discussion during their talks.

The foreign minister informed the UN secretary general about the recent visit to Pakistan of the U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush, and the talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan.

He told the UN secretary general that during his meeting with U.S. senators and congressmen, he had warned them against adopting the proposed rsolution before the U.S. Congress to shift the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The deteriorating Gulf situation and the current debate in the UN Security Council to help resolve the crisis were also discussed. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who was to have returned to Islamabad last night, has decided to stay in New York for a few more days in view of the crucial nature of discussions at the Security Council.

During the talks, the UN secretary general was assisted by the under secretary general, Mr Diego Cordovez, and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan by Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr S. Shah Nawaz.

Zhao Ziyang Makes Brief Stopover in Karachi

BK300236 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang made a brief stopover at Karachi early this morning on his way to Europe from Beijing. He was received and later seen off at the airport by the Sind governor, Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan. The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, senior officials of the Sind Government, and some members of the provincial council were also present at the airport.

Zia Meets With Jordanian Ambassador, Envoy to Egypt

BK300151 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] The Jordanian ambassador in Pakistan, Al-Haji Majid Hasan, called on the president in Rawalpindi this evening. The ambassador discussed matters of bilateral interest. He also delivered a message to the president from Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan.

Pakistan's ambassador in Egypt, Mr Zafar ul-Islam, currently in Pakistan, called on the president in Rawalpindi this evening. He discussed with the president matters relating to current affairs.

Relations With India in Wake of Rasgotra Visit Eyed

GF291800 Karachi DAWN in English 26 May 84 p 11

[Editorial: "Convergence of Views"]

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan have spoken of a "considerable measure of convergence of the viewpoints of the two sides" in the discussions held by them from May 20 to 23. Before his departure from Islamabad, Mr Rasgotra had been reported to be "happy and satisfied" with his "good visit." Yet, the joint press statement issued at the conclusion of the talks hardly points to any significant progress in the two countries' quest for regional detente. That does not, however, imply that nothing has changed after the conference.

To begin with, Mr Rasgotra came here after his visit had been postponed thrice. The last time it was put off in December 1983, at India's request, when New Delhi described the political climate between the two countries as "tense," "polluted" and "incongenial." In this context, Mr Rasgotra's visit by itself may be deemed to be some sort of a sign of progress.

During the visit, the two secretaries signed a protocol on group tourism and also exchanged letters amending the visa agreement of 1974 to ease procedures relating to travel between the two countries. They also decided to meet again from July 18 to 21 to continue their dialogue. This also served as an occasion for the announcement of two important bilateral engagements — the second meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission in early August, at which the delegations will be led by the respective foreign ministers; and the visit of the Indian Information Minister, Mr Bhagat, from July 7 to 11 to discuss bilateral media cooperation.

The fact that the Islamabad talks have ended on a happy note perhaps indicates that at least this time the participants had begun with modest aims which they appear to have realised.

The main item on the agenda was Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact and the Indian draft of a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries.

The sticking point in India's insistence that Pakistan make a firm commitment to bilateralism in settling all outstanding disputes and formally undertake not to permit any foreign military base

on its soil. These are conditions no self-respecting, sovereign country can agree to.

Above all, it smacks of a desire on the part of India to exercise hegemony on the region. As far as the position on the ground is concerned, the president of Pakistan has categorically assured that no government has sought any bases on Pakistan's territory nor is there the remotest bases [as published] to a foreign power. But signing a statement which forecloses a country's freedom of action for all times to come is quite another matter. It is clearly a negation of national sovereignty.

Similarly, no government would like to forego its option to seek a resolution of its disputes with other parties through the internationally accepted multilateral procedures. If New Delhi is sincerely interested in making real progress, there should be some serious attempt on the part of India to understand Pakistan's point of view. It is indeed very easy to score a point or two in such arguments, but that should not be the aim of the dialogue that has been initiated between India and Pakistan.

Mrs Gandhi has so far failed to respond to President Ziaul Haq's invitation to send a high-powered Indian military team to Pakistan to assess this country's defence requirements and to suggest a level to meet its legitimate defence needs. This also underlines the importance Pakistan attaches to keeping its peace initiative alive in the hope that, even small measures, like the two agreements signed recently in Islamabad, may in time generate a momentum which may help both the countries build up a real detente in South Asia.

As our ambassador in India, Mr Riaz Piracha, said recently, "Our people yearn for friendship and good neighbourliness...and this is equally the desire of the people...(on the other side of the border)." That gives rise to the hope that given good faith and perseverance, India and Pakistan might one day forge a happier relationship.

MRD Calls for Release of Detained Leaders

GF301054 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 30 May 84 p 1

[By correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad — The central committee of the opposition alliance, Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, has condemned continued detention of hundreds of political leaders, workers, students, and lawyers, and demanded their immediate release.

The committee, which met in Peshawar for five hours on Monday, repeated its rejection of President Ziaul Haq's Aug 12 election plan and demanded immediate announcement of schedule for polls under the 1973 Constitution along with restitution of basic rights and freedom of the press and judiciary.

The committee, which met under the presidentship of Arshad Chaudhry, vice-president, Pakistan Democratic Party, deplored recent restrictions imposed on MRD leaders on their inter-provincial movements in order to prevent the central committee meeting.

The meeting noted that a national consensus now exists on the four points of MRD, and even parties outside the MRD fold, including Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Darkhawsti group) and all prominent leaders of Muslim League (Pagara group) now support the MRD position.

The committee further condemned excesses committed against students and urged the government to release all arrested students and readmit those expelled from their institution.

It supported the call by the Lahore Bar Association to observe black day today to protest against the policies of the present regime and directed its workers to participate in the protest day.

The committee also directed workers to hold protest meetings during Ramadan to demand restoration of basic rights of the people.

Briefs

Badin Oil Discovery — Islamabad, May 27 — Another new discovery of oil reserves at Tajedi some 35 kilometers south east of Khaskheli in Badin District — this is the second oil discovery during the current month. This was disclosed by the minister of state for petroleum and natural resources, Dr. Mohammad Asad Khan, while addressing a crowded news conference here on Sunday afternoon. The discovery has been made by the Union Texas Pakistan Inc at the Tajedi structure which has been given to it on lease. — APP. [Text] [Karachi DAWN English 28 May 84 p 1 GF]

SRI LANKA

Minister Compares Ties With India, Israel

BK281209 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Transport Minister M.H. Mohamed disclosed yesterday that when the former SLFP regime suspended diplomatic relations with Israel in 1971, arrangements were made to look after their interests by the American Embassy in Colombo. The same arrangement in diplomatic terms is known as an interests section for Israelis in Sri Lanka.

The minister was addressing the 30th annual prize distribution of the (Ahadio) school at the YWCA auditorium in Colombo. The minister said that it was his duty as minister in charge of Muslim affairs to clarify and explain misconceptions and apprehensions that antigovernment forces have sought to put into the minds of the Muslim community in this country. Mr Mohamed added that an Israeli consulate functions in India with a senior diplomat stationed there. India now holds the chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement. But the minister stressed that, though Sri Lanka enjoys member status of the movment,, it would not permit even this degree of recognition in Sri Lanka. Mr Mohamed added that he would like to reiterate to his Arab and Muslim brethren that the government would continue to support the Arab and Muslim world and Sri Lanka's stand against Israeli action would remain unchanged.

The minister categorically stated that if there was any escalation of the present arrangement even to the extent that India has allowed, he would never be a party to such action. He also assured the PLO that like in the past, Sri Lanka would continue to support their just and rightful cause in all fronts in the future as well.

Hameed Tour To Explain Israeli Ties Expected

BK281213 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's foreign minister is expected to visit Arab countries soon to reassure them that Colombo's decision to allow Israel to open an interests section here did not indicate a slip in its support for Arabs, informed sources said here today. Sri Lanka, faced with an escalating Tamil separatist conflict, wants Israeli expertise to train antiterrorist forces.

Last week, the government said Israel would open an interests section here under the auspices of the United States Embassy — a decision which drew criticism from the political opposition, Tamil groups and Moslem organisations.

Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed said he had explained the move to Arab and Moslem countries. Informed sources said today that Mr Hameed — himself a Moslem — was likely to visit the Middle East soon as gesture to underline Colombo's continued support for the Arab cause.

Moslem Affairs Minister M.H. Mohamed yesterday vowed he would not support a move to restore full diplomatic ties with Israel, which Colombo broke off in 1970.

The government accorded full diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) several months ago.

Minister Says Country Will Survive Terrorism

BK281217 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said yesterday that no power will be able to conquer Sri Lanka as long as the Sinhalese population is alive. He said that by no means or threats could the northern terrorists make the people of Sri Lanka subject to anybody. But, he said, that there might be more challenges and threats from them in the future and, therefore, it was the people's responsibility to ensure peace among them.

Delivering a special lecture at the Anuradhapura (? Multi) Mahavidyalaya [university] yesterday, the minister also pointed out that there was a strong propaganda campaign of terrorists operating in Tamil Nadu to distort the facts with regard to the country's antiterrorist programs and give a bad picture about Sri Lanka to the entire world. There were supporters of this propaganda organization even in Colombo, and it was the duty of the people to bring them to the notice of the authorities.

Mr Athulathmudali also said that he hoped to extend the present surveillance zone throughout the country and ensure its maintenance indefinitely, if necessary.

He said if the entire population of the country made contributions to the national defense fund, it could without any doubt be an encouragement to the armed personnel, who would in turn realize the fact they were being backed by the whole country and that they were working for the people. Therefore, the minister appealed to all sections of the people to make their contributions to the fund.

Minister Athulathmudali also made it clear that the government's antiterrorist campaign was not anti-Tamil, as most of the Tamil speaking people, such as the Muslims and the Tamils in the estate sector, were against any division of the country.

Khamene'i: Western 'Domination' in Gulf Intolerable
LD291245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, arrived in Bandar 'Abbas to inspect the fighting capability of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf. Our correspondent has sent us a report on this visit:

This morning Mr Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, accompanied by the Navy and Air Force commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Bandar 'Abbas to study the latest military developments in the Persian Gulf region as well as to inspect the military and fighting capability of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. At the airport he was welcomed by the Friday imam, the governor general, military and security commanders, and other officials of the province. At the airport, at first the commander of the fleet in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman submitted a military report to the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. Then Mr Khamene'i inspected the forces stationed at the airport. Later he attended the parade ground of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman fleet in order to inspect those forces.

In this meeting the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council made a speech about the military developments in the Persian Gulf and the fighting capability of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in confronting all the threats of world arrogance and its agents. In a part of his speech, referring to the history of the conspiracies of America and her allies in order to dominate the Persian Gulf, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: What a bullying this is for the fleet and ships of a country to go thousands of kilometers away to the territory and environs of other nations under the pretext of defending their vital interests. Even if other Persian Gulf countries can tolerate this, we will not tolerate it. We are not prepared to tolerate the overlordship and domination of the Americans, the British, the French, and others in the Persian Gulf. If others are willing to be bullied, we are not. It is our desire for our independence which has forced the world bullies to react.

The president added: The regime ruling Iraq imagined that by spreading the war to the Persian Gulf it would be able to put pressure upon us. However, we announced before, and once again we announce, that we do not desire a crisis in the Persian Gulf. We will not start the war in the Persian Gulf and we have not started the war anywhere else. However, when they start a war against us, when they impose the war upon us and wish to bully us, our nation, our Armed Forces, our brave officers, and the believing hearts of our people will not tolerate this, and as you have witnessed, they did not tolerate it.

Stressing the firm resolve of the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation in order to confront all the conspiracies of world arrogance and her allies in the region, Mr Khamene'i said: It will not do for the Persian Gulf to be insecure for a nation which possesses the longest shores in the region but to be secure for others.

Referring to the conspiracies of some of the regimes of the Persian Gulf littoral states to assist the collapsing regime ruling Iraq, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council continued: Some of the governments of the littoral states in the southern part of the Persian Gulf are creating a hostile climate towards us. In response to their hostile activities we announce: If you are neutral in the war you will certainly experience no violations. However, it will not do for your bases, your AWACS, your port facilities, and your flags to be used by the Iraqis, to take ships laden with weapons and ammunitions through your ports to the battlefronts, to transport missiles with which she plans to sink our ships through your ports, and still for you to say that you are neutral in the war. This is not neutrality.

While emphasizing the desire of the Muslim Iranian Government and nation to protect the security of the Persian Gulf and to strengthen friendly relations between the Muslim nations of the region, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: During the past 5 or 6 years after the revolution we have not even once sought confrontation or war with our neighbors in the Persian Gulf and we will not do so in the future. The reason is that the neighborhood imposes certain responsibilities upon us and we accept these responsibilities. However, sometimes a neighbor who wishes to deliver a blow at us is more dangerous than aliens. What should we do in the face of such a danger? Should we remain silent? Should we remain indifferent? Would our people tolerate this? Do the wise people in the world condone this?

The president added: Our logical demand is this. We say: Do not engage in aggression against us, and we will not engage in mutual aggression against you. However, if they engage in aggression against us we will respond in kind, and we have demonstrated that we are capable of doing so.

Continuing his speech, and emphasizing the ineffectiveness of advanced weapons and equipment and other material facilities against the will of the oppressed nations, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council addressed the Armed Forces, saying: My dear military and Guards brothers, you should know that today your power in this region is unique. American threats to provide modern weapons [to the countries in the region] or to fly such and such aircraft will not shake our firm resolve to the least degree. If weapons and military capabilities could determine the fate of the wars, the political equations of the world would have been different from what they are today. The experience of our revolution, the experience of the imposed war and many other experiences have demonstrated that these advanced weapons and equipment are not decisive. What is decisive is human beings. Where are those human being who are prepared to confront the steadfast and brave Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: If the Americans are prepared to [illegible] the depths of Persian Gulf waters for nothing, thousands of kilometers away from their country, then let them come. With their faith, motivation, and divine power our people will resist them, will fight, and will be victorious.

Emphasizing the need for all-out steadfastness of the Muslim and revolutionary nation and the necessity of the attempts of the Armed Forces and the military and security organs to protect and strengthen their existing unity and solidarity, Mr Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, then said: Today the world is fixing its gaze upon the divine power of the Islamic Republic. The world bullies — America and the Soviet Union — cannot tolerate the independence of a nation which has so proudly raised its head. These pressures are for that reason; otherwise they have nothing to say.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council continued: With divine might and with reliance upon the power of the nation we will be able to bring the war to a successful conclusion in the not too distant future. We will constantly maintain our preparedness. The maintenance of preparedness does not mean any desire for aggression or violation; rather, it is a sign of lack of trust in those who have demonstrated that they cannot be trusted.

After inspecting the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman fleet, Mr Khamene'i, the president and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, accompanied by the Navy and Air Force commanders, went to the war room of the fleet headquarters and discussed the latest military developments and reports of the region.

[Signed] The Central News Unit, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bandar 'Abbas center.

President Interviewed on Visit

LD292306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Mr Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, who went to Bandar 'Abbas to inspect the fighting power of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, returned to Tehran this afternoon.

Prior to his departure for Tehran, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, continuing his visit to the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman Fleet, inspected the fleet's factory; and during the visit a member of the factory personnel explained to him the functions of the unit. The president of the Republic then went aboard the destroyer *Zal*, took part in a meeting of the destroyer's officers in the club aboard the ship, and had talks with the military commanders about the military preparedness of the Armed Forces stationed in the region. Then the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council and his entourage visited the tactical training center and in every section he was given the necessary briefings by the appropriate officers.

On leaving Bandar 'Abbas the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council gave an interview to our correspondent, to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, we welcome you and your entourage on your visit to Hormozgan Province and your inspection of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman Fleet. Could you please tell us the aim behind your visit to Hormozgan Province?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The aim was to inspect the units of the Armed Forces stationed in this place and assess at close quarters the preparedness situation of these forces and their efficiency. Praise be to God, thanks to our meetings and talks we were able, to a large extent, to achieve this aim.

[Correspondent] Bearing in mind the recent plots by global arrogance and the noise and commotion created about the lack of security in the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Strait, what is Your Excellency's view on these problems?

[Khamene'i] We have often discussed our view, and we reiterate it. In the Persian Gulf we are not creating a crisis, and we wish to see the Persian Gulf free of tension. Of course, recently the Iraqi regime initiated a number of acts of devilry in the Persian Gulf region, whereupon we declared that we would not remain silent but would respond decisively.

In this region, of course, we have always advised, and continue to advise, some governments to avoid embroiling themselves in the quarrel which exists between us and Iraq, wherein their assistance to Iraq would involve them with one of the two quarreling sides and they would be abandoning their neutrality. At any rate, we are confident that the superpowers consider it to their advantage to bring pressure to bear on the power of the Islamic Republic; and perhaps they have thought that they could bring pressure to bear on us. But we, praise be to God, have resisted and continue to resist such pressure, and are capable of dealing with it.

[Correspondent] Throughout your visit to the Persian Gulf Fleet, you have acquainted yourself with the problems here. How do you rate the power and fighting power of our fleet?

[Khamene'i] Fortunately, you have made excellent progress compared to the last time I visited. I sensed a new movement and new effectiveness. Good management exists. All the forces are cooperating with one another and coordinating their efforts. Praise be to God, all in all our situation here is good and the fighting ability is at an acceptable level. The beauty of the whole thing is that the pious forces which love the revolution and the dear homeland are fully engaged in this movement. The highest capabilities have been evoked, and people are working. Wherever there is effort and work there is, of course, success. I sense good efforts here.

[Correspondent] During the past few days we have seen with our own eyes the preparedness of our people and fighting forces throughout the country of the Islamic Republic. With regard to the fact that Iraq wishes to embark on warmongering in this region and there are plots afoot to make the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf insecure, do you have anything to say about the increasing readiness of the fighting forces, or the Islamic and neighboring countries in this region?

[Khamene'i] As for the fighting forces, we have given them the necessary orders and they know what to do. Our people, too, praise be to God, know what to do. In other words, not only in

the Bandar 'Abbas region but all over the country our people are awake, aroused, and on the scene; they sense that the task of defense is entrusted to all of them. In this region, too, the people should preserve their vigilance; and praise be to God, they have maintained this vigilance. We will remember well our trip to this region.

Majlis Deputies Thank Speaker for 'Good Management'
LD291304 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29 IRNA — Some 115 deputies of the first term of the Majlis, which ended last Sunday, here today in a letter to the Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thanked him for his great efforts in good management of the Majlis and also protecting it from various plots.

The letter, which was released by the public relations office of the Majlis, also wished success for the deputies of the second term of the Majlis, which was inaugurated by the Imam Khomeyni's speech Monday morning.

The deputies also paid tribute to the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, and also the martyrs of Islam.

Judiciary To Investigate Majlis Slander Charges
LD291657 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29 IRNA — The High Judicial Council will establish two branches in the Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran to deal with complaints of those who have been subject of slander in the Majlis, said a statement issued by the Council here today.

The Council issued the statement following the Monday message of Imam Khomeyni, read at the inauguration of the second term of the Majlis. The imam in his message stressed that if a person, regardless of being government staff or otherwise, had become the subject of slander in the pre-agenda speeches of Majlis or its discussions, the person had the right to complain to the judicial body of the country. It further added that the judicial system had to investigate the case and punish the offender.

The statement of the Council stated that such cases would be looked into promptly.

Judicial Seminar Adopts 11-Point Resolution
LD300941 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA — The four-day judicial seminar concluded work here Tuesday by issuing an 11-point resolution in which the participants once again reiterated their allegiance with the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Announcing their full support for the legitimate stance of the Islamic Republic on the imposed war and her foreign policy, the participants denounced Iraqi deployment of chemical warfare and massacre of civilian people as well as intervention of U.S. and other big powers in the Persian Gulf region.

They warned that in case of the least aggression against independence and security of this Islamic land, the people of Iran along with Islamic combatants would fight to curtail aggressive hands of the superpowers, stained with blood of the oppressed people.

The participants, rejecting vicious propaganda against Iran on the non-observance of human rights here, condemned the policy of organizations such as Amnesty International, U.N. Human Rights Committee, and international congress of justice ministers of reactionary states in the region.

They stressed that the sublime Islamic teachings attached high values to human rights, adding that such rights were fully observed and implemented in the Islamic system.

The participants at the seminar then visited Evin Prison here and talked with prisoners, while the prosecutor of Islamic Revolution of Tehran, Asadollah Lajevardi, presented a report on cultural and social activities of prisoners there.

Revolution Committees Seminar Passes Resolution
LD291256 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — The second nation-wide seminar of commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Committees ended its work by issuing a six-point resolution here Monday.

The resolution reiterated readiness of the participants in fighting against international imperialism led by the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, noting that enemies of Islam had embarked on adventurism in the region.

It also called on officials of the judiciary to take a strict stance vis-a-vis vicious attempts of counterrevolutionaries, now appearing in the form of narcotics trafficking and spread of corruption.

Khomeyni Meets With Shrine Superintendent
LD291429 Tehran IRNA in Engish 1352 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — Hoj. Abbas Va'ez Tabasi, the imam's representative and superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (As), the 8th imam of the household of the Prophet (Saw), met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni today. Hoj. Tabasi during the meeting provided the leader of the revolution with a report of activities of the theological center of Khorassan.

Afghan Refugees To Get ID Cards, Welfare Benefits
LD291215 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Mashhad, May 29, IRNA — Over 1.8 million Afghan refugees in Iran will receive special cards according to which they could benefit from welfare, cultural, and health services.

The second stage of issuing identification cards will start as of August by Afghan Refugees Coordination Office of Iran's Interior Ministry.

The head of Foreign Residents Office of Iran's Interior Ministry, Mr. Bashir, who recently participated in a three-day seminar of Coordination Council of Afghan Refugees here, told IRNA that in case Afghan refugees failed to accept principles of the Islamic Republic, they would be decisively treated.

He also said that quarantines will be established in border areas for medical examination and control of diseases which might contaminate the country. He added that new refugee camps will be set up in the country for Afghan refugees, and the Interior Ministry's policy was to grant further welfare services to deprived Afghans and relatives of Afghan martyrs.

Concerning the control of the borders of the Islamic Republic and prevention of smuggling of narcotics to the country, Mr. Bashir said that border posts will be strengthened and border battalions would be established to prevent entry of anyone with an intention to disturb society, or import narcotics.

Narcotics, Weapons Seized in Baluchestan va Sistan

LD291655 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Zahedan, May 29, IRNA — The Administrative Council of the Baluchestan va Sistan Province held a session here Monday night which was attended by ministers of agriculture and construction jihad and state minister and head of the welfare organisation currently visiting the province, and also various officials of the province.

The head of the Islamic Revolution's Committees of the province, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rezai'e, speaking in the session said that in the past two months members of the committee have seized large amounts of various narcotics and a number of weapons.

In these operations, he added, some 250 international and professional drug traffickers have been arrested. Referring to drug smugglers, he said in addition to engagement in an unlawful activity, they were carrying out a political plot hatched by the criminal U.S. and opponents of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Therefore, he stressed, an end must be put to this ominous activity and the issue must be dealt with decisively.

Furthermore, during the session other issues of the province were discussed. The three visiting ministers left Zahedan for Iranshah and Chah Bahar this morning.

Nateq-Nuri on Drug Crackdown

LD292134 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 29, IRNA — Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri arrived here today to inspect the reconstruction and renovation works by committed Muslims of Iran of the war-torn regions. The visit coincides with construction week of war-torn regions (May 24-31).

Commenting on the ongoing crackdown on drug traffickers and armed elements, which resulted in the martyrdom of 19 Revolution Guards in Baluchestan va Sistan Province, he said that in recent operations launched against these elements in the west of the country, about 60 top smugglers were arrested. He said also that purging operations are still continuing in the region.

On the issue of Persian Gulf, he said Iran is desirous of peace and security to the region, and if Iran is deprived of its interests in the Persian Gulf, the other countries would also be deprived of exporting their oil. Nateq-Nuri further said that it was natural that Iran would not budge from its stance and that it would stand against any pressure. He added that the voice of the nation and the government was one, and Iran had the readiness to face any sort of enemy encounters.

Majlis Allots Anti-Drug Funds

LD292125 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — The problem of drug addiction has political roots and is designed to destroy the Islamic Revolution, Prime Minister Musavi said here today.

Speaking to the families of martyrs from Tehran's southern neighbourhood of Javadiyeh, he said that addiction will be uprooted only when the borders of the country are brought under total control.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) has allocated 7 billion rials ($80.5 m) to combat the problem, he said.

The prime minister, who was speaking in his office, pointed to the different plots that have been hatched against the Islamic Revolution and said that drug addiction is one of the largest of such plots masterminded and perpetrated by the force of global arrogance. He said also that "we should consider the fight against it as important as the struggle in the war fronts."

Prime Minister Musavi added that the world arrogance had opened a new war front against the Islamic Republic by spreading addiction but that the government had firm policy in this regard.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,741

LD291725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 May 84

[Communique No 1,741 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours the fortifications, troop positions, and armory of the aggressive enemy on all battlefronts came under the heavy weapons fire of the Islamic combatants, and on every front Saddam's mercenary forces suffered losses and casualties.

In the northwestern operational sector our combatants continued an effective defense of their positions, killing or wounding 28

Iraqi servicemen, and destroying 6 of their observation posts and bunkers.

In the western operational sector our forces opened fire on enemy deployment positions. They killed 11 Saddamists and destroyed 16 foxholes and trenches, 1 truck carrying troops, and 1 enemy mortar.

In the southern operational sector yesterday sporadic exchanges of fire continued throughout the defensive lines and our fighting units destroyed 11 trenches and foxholes on the western bank of Arvand Rud and damaged Iraq's Chahar (Cheragh) jetty.

In the Chazzabeh region a number of enemy troops were observed digging trenches, but the fire opened by Islam's combatants forced them to flee from the scene after suffering casualties. Other casualties and losses suffered by the enemy on the southern fronts were the destruction of 1 mortar and the killing or wounding of 15 Iraqi servicemen.

The city of Abadan came under sporadic enemy heavy weapons fire yesterday, which martyred one of our civilian compatriots and wounded three others, and damaged six houses and part of an urban installation.

Iraqi Shelling Kills 2

LD291828 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Ahvaz, May 29, IRNA — A civilian was martyred and five others injured as the city of Abadan was barraged by the Iraqi artillery fire during the past 24 hours. Also, 6 residential units and a government establishment in the city were damaged.

Meanwhile the city of Khorramshahr was also subjected to Iraqi artillery fire during the same period, martyring a civilian and injuring 3 others. Several renovated buildings were also damaged and some cars destroyed.

IRGC Commander Denounces Foreign Media Campaign

GF290623 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, has addressed a call to the officials in charge of media unity at the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, in which he announced that since the beginning of the war imposed by the ruling regime in Iraq the international arrogance has wanted to expand this war. He said that a large media campaign is currently being waged, with all the Zionist and imperialist trumpets calling the imposed war the Gulf war and favoring the extermination of the Persian Gulf countries.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps wondered if the fear which is overwhelming the powers of international arrogance goes back to our Islamic forces' ability to cross 150 kms of the waters and quagmires of the Hoveyzeh Lake or to our forces' success in constructing the Khaybar bridge, liberating the Majnun Islands, and preserving those great victories at the time when the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq used more than 1.5 million chemical rockets and bombs against the Muslim fighters.

Brother Mohsen Reza'i pointed out the extent of the international arrogance's fear of the faith, sacrifices, and firm willpower of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He affirmed that the fierce battles waged by the Muslim fighters in Khaybar operations and the liberation of the Majnun Islands shook the White House, the Kremlin, Elysees Palace, and all the (?palaces) of the agents of the international arrogance, and those battles should be tied together so that the forthcoming generations will look at them with pride.

In another part of his call, he explained the conspiracies of the arrogance and reactionary information media in terrifying the whole world about the imposed war in order to rescue Saddam's regime from its certain fall. The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said that under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the Islamic Revolution is currently passing through sensitive circumstances in order to extend the idea of Islamic liberation to the ears of the [word indistinct] of the world and to the far ends of the earth so that it echos the call for freedom and independence.

Bushehr Province Volunteers Depart for Front

GF291620 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] As the soldiers of the Lord of the ages — may His advent be hastened — continue to confront the struggle of truth versus falsehood, a group of noble members of the task force from the second naval district of Bushehr left for the fronts of the struggle of Islam against the Saddamist blasphemy following special ceremonies at the naval base in the city yesterday afternoon.

According to the Central News Unit, following a recitation from the Holy Koran and a speech by one of the political-ideological officials of the second naval district regarding the conspiracies of world arrogance who are trying to weaken the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the brother commandos marched under a copy of the Holy Koran, shouting slogans, and then left for the fronts in the battle of light against darkness.

Groups of noble youths from Bushehr leave every day to join the other Islamic combatants on the fronts of truth against falsehood.

According to the Central News Unit, yesterday a group of combatant mobilization forces from Borazjan and neighboring villages left for the fronts amid loud cheers from the revolutionary people of this city and from the mobilization of the oppressed center in Borazjan. Fifteen experts also left for the front.

FRG Paper Cited on Egyptian Arms Exports to Iraq

LD291918 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Bonn, May 29, IRNA — Nearly all of the 30 to 35 ships that dock at the Jordanian port of Aqaba each day carry arms

and military supplies for the Iraqi regime, and only two are from Egypt, the daily *DIE WELT* wrote today.

DIE WELT quoted Egyptian analysts that Egypt could not compete with the flood of Russian arms towards Iraq.

It said Egypt exported weapons to Iraq through Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as well, and last year the Egyptian arms industry profited one billion dollars from their sale to Iraq.

The Egyptian arms were being paid for by Iraq's supporters in the war, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the German daily said. The paper added that Egypt was trying to change its arms industry from the Russian system to the American.

Olympics Boycott Due to U.S. 'Aggressive Nature'

LD291847 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — The ambassador of the German Democratic Republic, Guenther Fritsch, today submitted a written message from head of the GDR's National Olympic Committee on the boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games by that country, to head of Iran's sports organisation, Davoudi Shamsi.

During the meeting, Davoudi said the Islamic Republic was the first country which announced its decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympic Games. He added that the Islamic Republic had decided to boycott the games due to the aggressive nature of the United States.

He said that the United States as an oppressive power has committed open aggressions and brutal crimes in various parts of the world, including Asia, Africa, and Central America. It is natural that it (the U.S.) ignores the Olympic Charter and neglects the respect of sport and athletes.

Davoudi added that if other countries of the world paid attention to the Olympic Charter and its humanistic and ethical values as well as its goals, they would also boycott the games.

The GDR ambassador in reply said that his country boycotted the games for various reasons, including the breaching of the Olympic Charter, lack of bodily security for the athletes, and discrimination by the United States.

CSSR Energy Minister Ehrenberger Meets With Musavi

GF300810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, the Czechoslovak minister of fuel and power, Mr Ehrenberger, who is now in our country, met with Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, yesterday afternoon and delivered a message from the prime minister of Czechoslovakia, Mr Lubomir Strougal.

In this meeting the Czechoslovak minister of fuel and energy referred to the flourishing trade between the two countries and mentioned the resources of his country in the field of coal industry and geology and mines research. He said that there are immense possibilities for cooperation in these fields and in the field of irrigation, which has a special priority in the government's development program.

Mir-Hoseyn Musavi then explained the independent foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, which forms the basis of the economic relations of our country. He referred to the relations between Iran and Czechoslovakia since the advent of the Islamic Revolution. He hoped that the understandings and growing contacts between the officials of the two countries and the current ups and downs in the relations between the two countries will be replaced by relations on stable bases and on expanding scales.

The prime minister went on to refer to cooperation between the two sides in the field of research and geology, saying: During the recent classification of our existing mines we felt that so far we have done very little in this line. We think that by exploring more mines and obtaining knowledge of the technology related to mining, we may have good cooperation with your country.

The prime minister of our country then emphasized: We feel dutybound to explain our stance to other countries with respect to naming the aggressor and the aggrieved party in the war imposed upon us. Our country has long since learned to rely on our own people in the face of the major aggressions from the side of the United States and its agents. Even now we believe that if we want to remain independent, we must fight against any signs of aggression. We are surprised that the countries which claim to fight against American imperialism are helping Iraq, which is being supported by the United States and its agents.

Algerian Envoy Confers With Prime Minister

LD291803 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — The Algerian ambassador to Tehran, Abdelhamid Adjali, met and conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today.

The Algerian ambassador delivered a letter from his country's prime minister, Abdelhamid Brahimi, to Prime Minister Musavi.

Briefs

Drug Smugglers Executed — According to an IRNA report, following the verdict issued by Kerman Islamic Revolution Court and the approval of the Supreme Judicial Court, seven drug smugglers were sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out yesterday morning in Kerman. [Excerpt] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 84 LD]